


YOUR RESPONSIBILITY


Every U.S. farmer and rancher has the responsibility to stand up and be counted in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Your input can help influence decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. No matter how large or small your operation – and no matter what, where or how you farm – your response matters.

Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008, and please make your response a top priority. Complete and return your form by February 4. This is your chance to help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service


2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.


www.agcensus.usda.gov



**National
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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES

Week of: Oct. 29 – Nov. 4, 2007

Number: 35

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 4, 2007

Conditions across the Commonwealth have begun to greatly improve as a result of rain received in the prior week. Days suitable for work were 6.2. Topsoil moisture was generally adequate. Pastures have attempted to recover due to the moisture but killing frosts have slowed regrowth considerably. Livestock producers are still continuing to cull herds and locate supplemental feed supplies. The soybean harvest continued. Yields are reported as being average. With the increase in soil moisture, producers have begun to move farther along in small grains planting. Producers that began planting early have seen an increase in emergence over the past week. The cotton harvest also advanced this week. Other activities this week include land preparation for small grain planting, soil sampling, liming, and scouting newly planted wheat and barley.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 4, 2007	15	32	52	1
October 28, 2007	1	25	71	3
October 21, 2007	56	38	6	0
October 14, 2007	55	39	6	0
October 7, 2007	61	35	4	0



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	31	35	24	9	1
Livestock	1	11	35	48	5
Other Hay	38	17	38	6	1
Alfalfa Hay	26	15	32	22	5
Soybeans	14	29	44	12	1
Winter Wheat	1	5	42	50	2
Barley	1	4	46	43	6

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Soybeans Harvested	55	40	40	43
Winter Wheat Seeded	52	25	54	53
Winter Wheat Emerged	26	NA	28	14
Barley Seeded	93	83	92	91
Peanuts Combined	95	80	86	86
Cotton Harvested	85	70	55	56
Beef Cattle Forage	41	NA	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forage	26	NA	NA	NA
Sheep Forage	65	NA	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 4, 2007													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Nov. 4	Mar. 1 to Nov. 4 normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	63	34	71	30	49	-2	4232	3860	0.00	6.18	-1.35	33.67	-3.33
Norfolk	65	47	76	40	56	0	4837	4342	0.00	4.04	-3.72	28.28	-11.55
Richmond	66	41	75	35	53	0	4770	4202	0.00	4.65	-3.23	33.72	-4.16
Roanoke	65	35	70	31	50	-2	4623	NA	0.00	6.44	-0.87	27.01	-9.49
Wash/Dulles	64	37	72	31	50	0	4336	NA	0.00	4.92	-2.53	22.58	-13.26

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86⁰) + daily minimum (50⁰))/2-50⁰; where 86⁰ is used if the maximum exceeds 86⁰ and 50⁰ is used if the minimum falls below 50⁰.
* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.
N.A. = not available. T = trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Wheat seeding is moving ahead at a rapid pace now that we have received rain. We might see a record in wheat crop acreage. Soybean yields are about average, which is better than expected. Farmers are worried about the higher cost of seed and projected high cost of fertilizer, especially nitrogen. Farmers are cleaning up field borders and starting to winterize equipment.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Small grain emergence has been irregular in some fields due to dry topsoil conditions at planting, but the rains from two weeks ago have greatly improved emergence. Farmers made good progress harvesting soybeans and planting wheat. Wheat acreage will be up in response to very good wheat prices. Soybean yields are ranging from less than 10 bushels per acre to over 40 bushels per acre. Producers also continued to work with crop insurance adjusters on claims.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Rain received a week ago helped to replenish ground water to a degree; all of it went directly into the ground. There was very little, if any, run off. The rain will certainly boost small grain planting. Pastures are trying to grow; although frosts of last week have slowed things down considerably. Frost has also begun to kill summer annuals and producers are trying to get them harvested quickly to minimize quality losses. Livestock grazing on summer annuals has presently stopped due to prussic acid concerns. Producers continue to search for feed supplies. Most hay is coming from out of state. Calves continue to find their way to market channels.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Scattered showers have greened up yards and pastures, but too little too late. Corn silage yields are at best 50%, with little ear size or development. Vegetable harvest ended with frost, and farmers are preparing fields for cover crops.

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Rains received last week gave much needed moisture. Although, it has slowed cotton, soybean, and peanut harvest but gave small grains a boost. With wheat prices higher we will plant more small grain acres this fall.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Crop farmers are finishing up the soybean harvest and planting mostly wheat after beans, as wheat prices continue to look strong. Vegetable farmers are cleaning up fields, removing plastic mulch and drip lines, and planting cover crops. Cereal rye is in high demand as a cover. Scarcity of good supplies has made it more expensive than in previous years. Livestock farmers are looking for supplemental feed and culling their herds. Hay prices have increased dramatically.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Several farms are still seeking supplemental hay to meet their winter feeding needs.

PRINCE EDWARD (Bobby Long)

Recent rains greened pastures and provided some grazing. Fall seeding has resumed at an intense pace.